

I strongly oppose any of the proposed measures by the Bush handpicked members of the FCC to allow any further consolidation, including raising the cap on media outlets owned, cross media ownership, duopoly rule for radio ownership, the local television rule and the dual network rule.

Four major media companies control 90% of what the American public sees and hears. A dangerous crisis exists in the diversity of viewpoints expressed in the media. I strongly believe that the very foundation of our democracy, free speech, is already in serious jeopardy. An example of the stranglehold the media has on information disseminated to the public is the overwhelming majority of Americans do not even know that the FCC is considering these sinister rule changes. Very few hearings have even been held by Michael Powell even 3 million people have written to the FCC to reject these rules. Mr. Powell and his Republican cohorts did have ample time to meet with the industry lobbyists who have bought our airwaves. As an American citizen this is one of the most important issues facing this country. There must be hearings and full disclosure to the American public before any changes of this magnitude are made.